

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

TEROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Trip Report [REDACTED]

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I. Purpose of Trip

A. To become familiar with the terrain along portions of the Iron Curtain and in other selected portions of the area of responsibility assigned to the Satellites Branch, Geography Division, ORR. The principal countries visited were Germany, Italy and Greece. The trip in Germany was made in company with [REDACTED] of the Western Europe Branch, Geography Division.

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B. To discuss problems of mutual interest, especially in the fields of border studies, escape and evasion, and town plan compilation, with [REDACTED] and representatives of the US Armed Forces in the areas visited.

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II. Activities

A. Reconnaissance trips by train, car, bus, airplane and boat along the routes shown on the map (Appendix A).

B. Visits to about 5 points on the Federal Republic-Soviet Zone border in Germany, about 13 points on the Czech-German border, and 2 points on the German-Austrian (Soviet Zone) border.

C. Visits to 4 points on the Greek-Albanian border, 2 points on the Greek-Yugoslav border, and 3 points on or near the Greek-Bulgarian border.

D. Received briefing on the activities [REDACTED] and discussed possible requirements with them.

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E. Discussed border studies and town plans with personnel in Munich. One result of this discussion was the receipt by the Geography Division of voluminous map material prepared in Munich that will be of value in a current border study project of this Division.

F. Discussed escape and evasion problems with representatives of USAFE A-2, Wiesbaden.

G. Discussed escape and evasion and border studies with Agency personnel in Greece.

H. Notes were taken and photographs made at all stages of the journey. The notes will be filed in the Satellites Branch for use in future projects. Copies of the pictures will be filed in Graphics Register.

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I. Splendid cooperation was received from [REDACTED] who arranged contacts with personnel of other US agencies in Germany and spent considerable time expediting other matters [REDACTED] during the stay in Germany. Tours along the Iron Curtain borders of Germany were made possible through the cooperation of officers of the 532nd MI Battalion, USAREUR, and its various detachments, and local units of the Bavarian border police (Appendix B). The complete success of the trip through Greece and of the tours along the northern borders of Greece was made possible through the efficient efforts [REDACTED] personnel and the cooperation of Greek officials.

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### III. Difficulties

No important difficulties were encountered.

### IV. Comments

Discussions in Greece revealed that much use was made of the Bulgarian city plans prepared by the Geographic Area, ORR, and that there was urgent need for the city plan of Korçë, Albania. This project had previously been approved but no work had been undertaken on it by the Geographic Area because of lack of personnel and the pressure of other work. [REDACTED] agreed to try to speed up compilation of this city plan.

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### V. Recommendations (See Appendix C)

A. Each area analyst should have an opportunity to take a similar familiarization trip, and the trips should be repeated at intervals in order to bring the analyst abreast of current developments.

B. Geographers with experience in the Geographic Area, ORR, should be attached to certain of the [REDACTED]

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C. If implementation of item V. B. is impossible, it is proposed that whenever possible, an area familiarization trip should have two purposes: (1) to give the analyst a general orientation in his area as a whole; and (2) to allow the analyst to conduct a reconnaissance type of field investigation and gather source material for a specific project currently under way in his branch.

D. It is desirable for itineraries to be arranged so that two geographic analysts can travel together through a given area.

E. Travel by car is recommended, since it allows the analyst more freedom of action while on the trip.

F. The analyst should be allowed to contact [REDACTED] in the area of travel. When appropriate he should also be allowed to contact other US installations and native geographers or professional workers in related fields. [REDACTED]

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

attachments